



RFO-2025-22

**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

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September 4, 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR USDA CONTRACTING ACTIVITIES

From: Hilary Erickson
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Subject: Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Class Deviation for FAR Part 9 in
Support of Executive Order 14275 on Restoring Common Sense to
Federal Procurement

1. Purpose. This memorandum approves a class deviation to Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 9 for purposes of implementing the FAR Council's model deviation to FAR Part 9.

2. Background. [Executive Order \(E.O.\) 14275 on Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement](#), signed April 15, 2025, mandates a comprehensive review and simplification of the FAR.

The FAR is being updated to:

- Eliminate non-statutory language
- Remove redundant or obsolete language
- Enhance clarity through plain language
- Align with the new FAR framework
- Preserve essential governmentwide acquisition standards

This project is referred to as the Revolutionary FAR Overhaul (RFO) initiative. This initiative will make the FAR more concise, understandable, and focused on core procurement requirements.

3. Summary of Changes. FAR Part 9, largely based on statute, establishes the standards and procedures for determining contractor responsibility and eligibility for federal contracts, ensuring that only qualified, reliable contractors receive government awards. It protects the government's interests by requiring contractors to demonstrate they have adequate financial resources, technical capability, integrity, and past performance to successfully fulfill contract requirements.

Statutory requirements and presidential directives retained in the RFO FAR Part 9 model deviation include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 6 U.S.C. § 395, Prohibition on Contracts with Corporate Expatriates
- 10 U.S.C. § 3206 and 41 U.S.C. § 3306, Planning and Solicitation Requirements

- 10 U.S.C. § 3243 and 41 U.S.C. § 3311, Qualification Requirements
- 22 U.S.C. § 2593e, Measures Against Activities that Violate Arms Control Treaties
- 41 U.S.C. § 113, Responsible Source
- 41 U.S.C. § 2303, Ethics Safeguards Related to Contractor Conflicts of Interest
- 41 U.S.C. § 2304, Conflict of Interest Standards for Consultants
- 41 U.S.C. § 2313, Database for Suspension and Debarment Officials
- Pub. L. 103-355 Sec 2455, Uniform Suspension and Debarment
- Pub. L. 111-84 Sec 815, Clarification of Uniform Suspension and Debarment Requirement
- Pub. L. 117-324, Preventing Organization Conflicts of Interest in Federal Acquisition E.O. 12549 and E.O. 12689, Debarment and Suspension

| Change | Description |
|----------|--|
| Retained | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subparts 9.1, 9.2, and 9.3 are significantly streamlined with some shifting and reorganizing of sections and subsections throughout. • Subparts 9.4 “Debarment, Suspension, and Ineligibility”, and 9.5 “Organizational and Consultant Conflicts of Interest”, are retained and updated with plain language edits. • All existing provisions and clauses are retained (or remain reserved if previously reserved) with no changes to the text. |
| Removed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 9.000 “Scope of Part” has been removed as the language was duplicative. • The definition of “Surveying activity” has been removed from section 9.101, “Definitions”. • Section 9.104-2 “Special Standards” has been removed and may be moved to non-regulatory content. • Section 9.106 “Preaward Surveys” has been removed and may be moved to non-regulatory content. This includes the reference to utilizing the Standard Form 1403, Preaward Survey of Prospective Contractor (General). • Section 9.107 “Surveys of Nonprofit Agencies Participating in the AbilityOne Program” has been removed. The AbilityOne Program is covered in Part 8 and nuances of pre-award surveys relevant to the AbilityOne Program are now covered in non-regulatory content. • Subpart 9.6 “Contractor Team Arrangements” has been removed and may be moved to non-regulatory content. • Subpart 9.7 “Defense Production Pools and Research and Development Pools”, has been removed and may be moved to non-regulatory content |

This table is not an exhaustive list.

4. Instructions.

- The USDA acquisition workforce shall follow the RFO Part 9 deviation text instead of FAR Part 9 as codified at 48 CFR Chapter 1. The Council’s RFO Part

9 model deviation text is available at [Acquisition.gov/far-overhaul](https://www.acquisition.gov/far-overhaul) and is incorporated into this class deviation.

- Contracting activities must review templates and related standard operating procedures to align with this class deviation and remove unnecessary processes and steps.

5. Applicability. This class deviation applies to all USDA procurements.

6. Authority. This class deviation is issued under the authority of [E.O. 14275](#), [OMB M-25-25](#), and 48 CFR 1.4, and RFO FAR 1.304.

7. Effective Date. This class deviation is effective immediately and remains in effect until rescinded or incorporated into the FAR.

8. Points of Contact. Questions regarding this class deviation may be directed to the USDA Procurement Policy Division at procurement.policy@usda.gov.